54-40 or Fight

By Emerson Hough = Author of "The Mississippi Bubble"

CHAPTER XVII.

A Hunter of Butterflies.

I love men net because they are mentioned but because they are not women.—Queen thristina.

There was at that time in Montreal assort of news room and public exchange, which made a place of general meeting. It was supplied with newspapers and the like, and kept up by susscriptions of the Rockies. That is all?

They do not speak so of Dr. McLaughlin, the best process of the Rockies. That is all?

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They do not speak so of Dr. McLaughlin, believe mc? But he is not McKay; he is not Simpson, be is not Belivens; he is not Simpson, be is not Belivens; he is not Simpson be in the believe mc? But he is not McKay; he is not Simpson be is not Belivens; he is not Simpson be in the service with a last of the last night all the while with an eye and an ear out or anything that might happen.

As I stared in pretense of reading.

As I stared in pretense at the page.

"North of the Platte, in our western iterritories," I said. "I once traded in that country."
"You are American?"
"Yes,"
"So," he said thoughtfully. "So. A great country, a very great country. Me, I also live in it."
"Indeed?" I said. "In what part?"
"It les five years since I cross the Rockies."

Heckies."
"You have crossed the Rockies? I

seemed. Entering the place shortly before noon, I made pretense of resulting all the while with an eye and an ear out for anything that might happen.

As I stared in pretense at the page before me. I fumbled idly in a poetet, with unthinking hand, and brought out to place before me on the table an object of which at first I was unconscious the little Indian blankst class. As it lay before me I felt selzed of a sudden haired for it, and let fail on it a heavy hand. As I did so, I heard a voice at my ear.

"Mein Gott, man, do not! Tou break it, surely."

I started at this I had not heard any one approach. I discovered now that the speaker had taklen a seat near me at the table and could not fail to see the object which lay before me.

I beg pardon, he said, in a broken speech which showed his foreign birth; but it is so beautiful; to break it iss wrong."

Something in his appearance and speech fixed my attention. He was a tall, bent man perhaps sixty years of age, of gray hair and beard, with the glasses and the unmistakable air of the student. Ills stooped shoulders, his weakened eye, his thin, blue-veined hand, the fron-gray hair standing like a roff above his forehead marked him not as one acquainted with a wild life but the fron-gray hair standing like a roff above his forehead marked him not as one acquainted with a wild life but the filt of other days and scaes.

I pushed the trinklet along the table towards him.

"Tis of little value." I said, "and is little to the way when I mand find.

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"Tis of his way when I mand find.

"Tis of his the value." I said, "and is little to the way when I mand find.

"Tis of his to value." I said, "and is little to the way when I mand find.

"Tis of his the place at the page and him.

"Tis of his the place at the page and the little for other days and scaes.

I pushed the trinklet along the table to the way when I mand find.

"Tis of his the place at the page and the place at the page and the place at

writer fitted for other days and scenes.

I pushed the trinklet along the table awards him.

"Tis of little value." I said. "and is liways in the way when I would find avithing in my pocket."

"But once some one hass made it; mee it hass had value. Tell me where ou get it."

"North of the Platte, in our western peritorles." I said. "I once traded in all country."

"You are American."

"So," he said thoughtfully. "So, A eat country a very read at the country."

"What you say interests me very extent of the Rockies, it has been done in six weeks and five days, by Sir George himself. From Fort Colville, west of the Rockies, it has been done in six weeks and five days, by Sir George himself. From Fort Colville, west of the Rockies, it has been done in six weeks and five days, by Sir George himself. From Fort Colville, west of the Rockies, it has been done in six weeks and five days, by Sir George himself. From Fort Colville, west of the Rockies, it has been done in six weeks and five days, by Sir George himself. From Fort Colville, west of the Rockies, it has been done in six weeks and five days, by Sir George himself. From Fort Colville, west of the Rockies, it has been done in six weeks and five days, by Sir George himself. From Fort Colville, west of the Rockies, it has been done in six weeks and five days, by Sir George himself. From Fort Colville, west of the Rockies, it has been done in six weeks and five days, by Sir George himself. From Fort Colville, west of the Rockies, it has been done in six weeks and five days, by Sir George himself. From Fort Colville, west of the Rockies, it has been done in six weeks and five days, by Sir George himself. From Fort Colville, west of the Rockies, it has been done in six weeks and five days, by Sir George himself. From Fort Colville, west of the Rockies, it has been done in six weeks and it weeks the form of the Port Colville, west of the Rockies, it has been done in six weeks and it weeks the says by boats. It takes the town in six weeks and it weeks the form of the F

New York? Well, I had no hurry. I think it over, yess."
"But tell me, where did you get that leath thing?" he asked me again presently, taking up in his hand the Indian class.

To meesunderstand me I live west of them for five years. I am now combined the five years are not been done. I am insectologer. She had been the five years and the title country. The she would be shorter to go with him yet call forth. I had seen many bugs say to call forth. I had seen many it was atraid my eyes showed my increase but he would be should be should be should had something to offset failured and this time should had something to offset failured and this time should had something to offset failured at him."

The she would be should had something to offset failured as the should had something to offset failured at him."

The she would be should had something to offset failured and this time as the country of creating the strange was there is the country of call forth there yet more. He is right; but they had the time you go soon to organize the part of the baroness the years of the baroness the years of the baroness the years of your Americans. We had not seen since the days of the Huns.

The she would be more than the country of creating the country of creating the west coast. Because the part of the baroness the years of the years of the years of the years of the baroness the years of the years of the baroness the years

"Each man studies for himself his it own specialty," mused the old man. "You har perhaps studied the species of woman. Once, also L."

cettle thing? he asked me again presently, taking up in his hand the Indian class.

"I traded for it among the Crow Indians."

"You know what it iss, sh?"

"You know what it is Indian made."

He scanned the round discs carefully "Wait." he exclaimed. "I show you cometings."

He reached for my pencil, drew toward him a piece of paper, taking from young Englishmen whose bearing in some young earn me the impression that they

momes they boild. Sir decage Simpson and the street of the contents of the con

in a city where there was so inhear rea-son to suppose strangers were watched. I resolved to wait until the next morn-ing and to take my friend Ven Ritten-liofen with me. He need not know all that I knew, yet in case of any accident to myself or any sudden controllings, he would serve both as a witness and as which might be entertained regarding

myself.

The next day he readily enough fell in with my suggestion of a morning stroll, and again we sallled forth, at about 9 o clock, having by that time finished a dejeuner a la fourchette with Jacques Bertillon, which to my mind compared unfavorably with one certain other I had shared.

ie to turn back.

I might as well have done so. We assed up the little walk, and I raised be knocker at the door; but even as it ounded I knew what would happen, here came to me that curious faeling

The steamer Modesto she my there. Now she iss gone."

I pulled up suddenly. This was the ship which carried Captain Parke and his friend Lleutenant Peel, of the British may. The secret council at Montreal was, therefore, apparently ended! There would be an English land expedition, across Canada to Oregon. Would there be also an expedition by sea? At least my errand in Montreal, now finished, had not been in vain, even though it ended in a mystery and a query.

CHAPTER XIX.

The Gentieman From Tennessee.

Women distrust men too much in general, and not enough in particular—Philibert Commerce.

Now all the more it was necessary for me and my friend from Oregon to hasten on to Washington. Rumors abounded, I found as soon as I struck the first cities below the Canadian line. It was in the air now that under Calhoun there would be put before congress a distinct and definite attempt at the annexation of Texas. Stories of all sorts were on the streets: rumors of the wrath of Mr. Clay, yet other rumors of interesting possibilities at the conting Whig and Democratic conventions. Everywhere was that strange, ominous, indescribable tension of the atmosphere which exists when a great people is moved deeply.

Late as it was when I reached Washington, I did not hesitate to repair at "You are always thinking of the pepting of the property of the prop the first cities below the Canadian line. It was in the air now that under Calhoun there would be put before congress a distinct and definite attempt at the annexation of Texas. Stories of all sorts were on the streets; rumors of the wrath of Mr. Clay, yet other rumors of interesting possibilities at the coming Whig and Democratic conventions. Everywhere was that strange, ominous, indescribable tension of the atmosphere which exists when a great people is moved.

I promised later to make him incre at home. In his elation over the prospect he now saw before him, the old man fairly habbled. Germany seemed farthest from his mind. After his departure, Calhoim again turned to me.

"I want you to remain. Nicholas." said he, "because I have an appointment with a gentleman who will seen he present." "Rather a late hour, str." I ventured. "Arte you keeping faith with Doctor Ward?"

"I have no time for hobbles," he ex-claimed, half petulantly, "What I must do is this work. The man we are to meet tonight is Mr. Polk. It is impor-tant."

East."

Perhaps half an hour later, Mr. Calboun's old negro man usberred in this awalted guest, and we three found our selves alone in one of these midnight conclaves which wens on in Washington even then as they do today. Mr. Polkwas serious as usual, his indeclave features wearing the finsk of solemnity which with so many passes as wisdom. "I less come Mr. Calboun," said by

which with so many passes as wisdom. "I have come. Mr. Caiheun," said he-when the lattier had assured into that my presence would entail no risk to him. "To talk over this Texas situation. How do you stand in case war should be declared against Mexico! That ought to be a popular measure. The Texans have captured the popular imagination. The Alamo rankles in our nation's memory. What would you say to a stiff demand there, with a strong show of military force behind it?".

"You are always thinking of the pen-ular imagination, Jin. You have been thinking of that for some time in Ton-possec. All that outery about the whole

nessee. All that outery about the whole of Oregon is ill-timed today."
"Fifty-four Forty or Fight, that sounds well?" excluined Polk, "ch?"
"Trippingly on the tongue, yes!" said John Calisoun, "But how would it sound to the tune of cannon fire? How would it look written in the smoke of muskerry?"

The collision of the bestility of this jest. The hestility of the properties well known.

ketry?"
"It might not come to that," said Polk, shifting in his seat. "I was thinking of it only as a rallying cry for the campaign. Dash me—I beg pardon—" he looked around to see if there were any Methodists present—"but I believe I could go into the convention with that war cry behind me and sweep the boards of all opposition:"
"And afterwards?"
"But England may back down." are

"But England may back down," argued Mr. Polk. "A strong showing in the southwest and northwest might downders for us."
"But what would be behind that

tery, sit," he began; but Calhoun raised a gentle hand.

"It it would please you, sir, to defer where we turned. It dismal enough at the morning an unusual sit upon it, for few of down, although the I-morning. Something, would be of extreme worth to use would be as well for the wold also allow you to continue your private researches into the life of our native tribes."

Ven Rittenhefen positively glowed at this, "Ach, what an honor," he began the would happen to that curious feeling nees when one knocks couse which lacks hupon to the triber and the came from rooms. It is not open that country not timb of our native tribes."

"Meantime," resumed Calhoun, "he began again.

"Meantime," resumed Calhoun, "he began the country not the continue your private researches into the life of our native tribes."

Ven Rittenhefen positively glowed at this, "Ach, what an honor," he began the country of the would have for us, we could also find use, at proper remuneration, for your private aid in making up a set of maps of that western country which you know so well, and of which even I myself am the Canne from rooms to more strongly I feeling now, because the connection to know the peculiarities of that country of Oregon."

It was not locked.

and he at length sie have divined the Democratic papit that party, might then at "Never" I processel; but twas ready enough for the drift split, then, or any party that is what must hold it had not stay in this work, M and hear you willifed likely enough the split sat looking at me. "I still sat looking at me." I still sat looking at me. "I still sat looking at me. "I still sat looking at me." Jim look will not forget."

"Let him come at me as h furmed.

can ministry!"
"Ah, you think he cultivate:
Lucrezha, rather than adores
"I know it! One-third of

Thus will of the third of may be human, but the other is politician. He will flatter into confidences. She is well tracted at best, these days, we might do that anded like the third confidences, never fear. I when the time comes, he will into disclosures, never fear. I when the time comes, he will army of occupation into her and all the while, on the one that form the other, he will appear to have a moral and lofty-minded may be the confidence of the confide boy, you give me an idea.
for a moment. Do you go o
copying there, and excuse
time.

An instant later he passe room, his tall figure bent, classed behind his back, a wrinkled in a frown, as wa when occupied with some pr

Congressman Adventures of



VI-He Entertains Constituents.

DETAILED BY HIMSELF

BY GEORGE BARTON



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